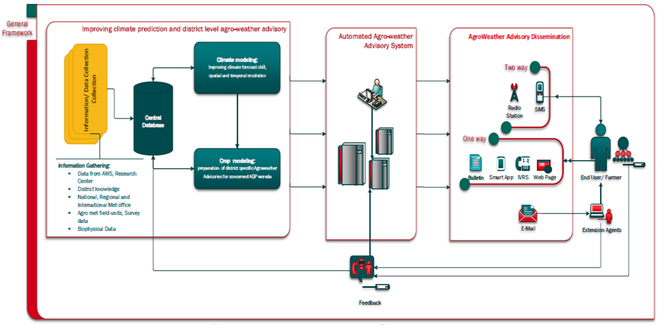
Digital AgroMet advisory platform for resilient agriculture in Ethiopia

Context

A major constraint faced by smallholder farmers in Ethiopia is coping with production uncertainties associated with an unpredictable climate during the growing season.

The Ethiopian AgroMet Platform offers great potential to improve farmers' management of climate-induced risks, facilitate technology adoption and thereby improve their livelihoods.



The AgroMet platform incorporates location specific climate-information, soil and crop specific best-bet agronomic management recommendations for farmers, development agents and extension officers; with the integration and automation of crop-climate modeling with ICTs as a dissemination mechanism.

The platform will contribute to the vision of making Ethiopian agriculture climate-smart by closing the gap between climate information and effective action.

	Type of Forecast used for advisory generation	Farm Management Decisions covered by advisory	Means of Delivery
Weather Forecast	• Daily forecast with 1-10 days' lead for Precipitation, Temperature, Humidity, Wind • Early Warning of Extreme weather event (e.g. heavy precipitation) • Unseasonal rains	• Timing of land preparation, planting, fertilizer & pesticide application, weeding, harvesting, trashing and storage • Preparing for extreme weather events	• Toll Free: SMS & IVRS (***8125 & 8325***) • Radio together with educational programs
Climate Prediction	• Probabilistic and Deterministic seasonal forecast of Precipitation and Temperature • Agriculturally relevant parameters: onset, cessation, and length of growing period	• Selection of crops & varieties • What combination of crops to grow for the season • How much to invest on inputs (fertilizer, improved seed, pesticide) and leasing additional farm	• SMS & IVRS • Preseason workshop • Bulletins

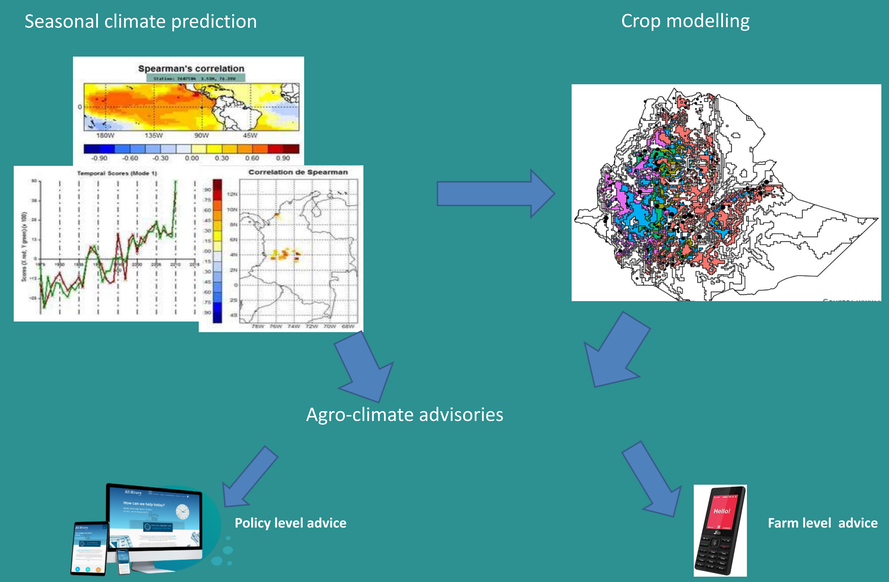
Forecast, advisory and dissemination mechanisms in the platform

Beneficiaries

82,000 smallholder farmers (~13,600 households) directly benefitted from four major regions enabling them to better manage risk, take advantage of favorable climate conditions and help them adapt to change.

Outcomes

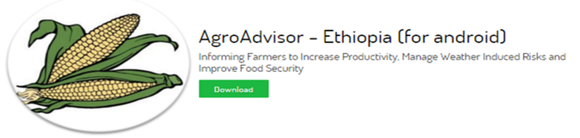
- Crop and site specific agro-meteorological advisories generated based on climate forecasts.
- Smallholder farmers connected with soil, weather, crop, market and socio-economic information through digital agricultural platform.
- Agro-met advisory communication and dissemination mechanism developed by integrating modern ICT with crop-climate modeling.
- Enhanced capacity of 72 extension officers and 513 development agents across the country to tailor climate information with actionable decisions.
- MoA uses the platform as one of the decision support tools for seasonal planning.

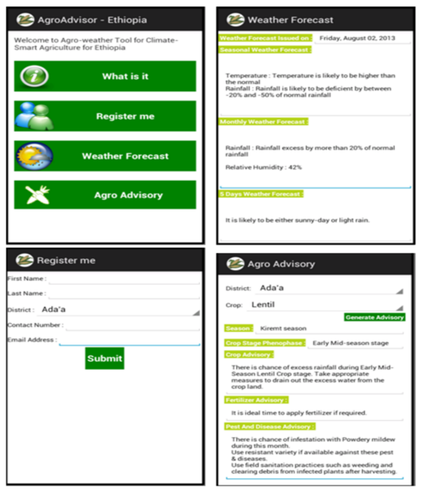


Scan to find out more

Dissemination tools

Develop an appropriate dissemination mechanism to deliver climate-smart advisories using ICTs such as SMS, IVRS and smart-phone applications on farming practices and provide alerts linked to weather forecasts during cropping seasons.





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